



# MEMA REPORTS

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MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **MEMA Supports Cambridge after Massive Fire & Coordinates SBA Assistance**

On December 3, 2016, the City of Cambridge experienced a ten alarm fire in the area of York and Berkshire Streets. The massive fire damaged or destroyed more than 18 buildings and displaced more than 81 families from their homes. MEMA deployed personnel to the fire scene to support emergency sheltering operations and help fulfill resource requests. In the days following the fire, MEMA's Disaster Recovery Unit and Region I Office helped the City of Cambridge and the American Red Cross set up a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Cambridge City Hall. The DRC, which was open for one week, connected fire survivors with service providers to help meet immediate and longer-term needs, including housing. Agencies and organizations with representatives at the DRC included MEMA, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transitional Assistance, Division of Insurance, Department of Public Health, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, various City departments and other non-profit organizations.

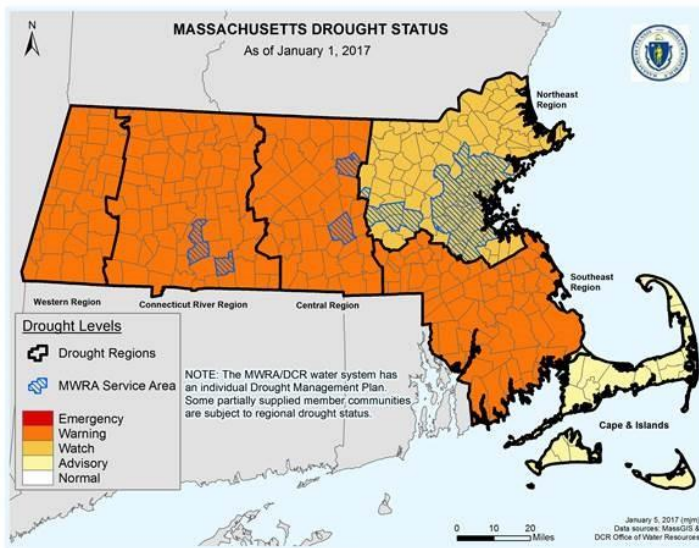
The Governor's office, in coordination with MEMA, requested Small Business Administration (SBA) assistance for survivors. [SBA Assistance was approved](#) and low interest loans are available for survivors of the fire. A SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center was set up at Cambridge City Hall from December 15-22 as part of the assistance process.

## **MEMA Supports Disaster Recovery Centers in Methuen, Holyoke, and Lynn after Fires**

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, an apartment building fire in Methuen displaced over 50 residents and on January 1st, large apartment building fires in Lynn and Holyoke resulted in over 60 residents displaced from each fire. MEMA responded to the impacted cities to assist local public safety officials and the American Red Cross with resource coordination, shelter support and the establishment of Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs). Disaster Recovery Centers were established in each city to assist displaced survivors with temporary housing and other immediate needs. MEMA's assistance included coordination with other agencies and organizations, including Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transitional Assistance, Division of Insurance, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Department of Mental Health, various non-profits and local government officials.



## **Drought Conditions Improve in Areas of Commonwealth, Rainfall Deficit Continues**



Although many areas of the state experienced some precipitation in December and the early portion of January, large portions of the state continue to experience a water deficit.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) announced updated Drought Warnings for the Connecticut River Valley and the Western, Central, and Southeast regions of Massachusetts, and a Drought Advisory for the Cape and Islands, unchanged from the month of December. The Northeast region of the state was declared as a Drought Watch area, down from a Drought Warning in the month of December. The warnings and advisory are the result of

recommendations by the Commonwealth's [Drought Management Task Force](#) which is comprised of state, federal and local officials and is led jointly by EEA and MEMA.

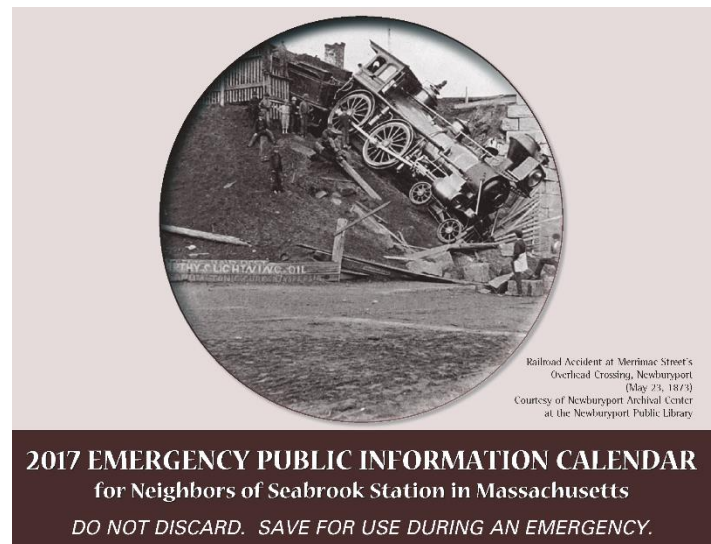
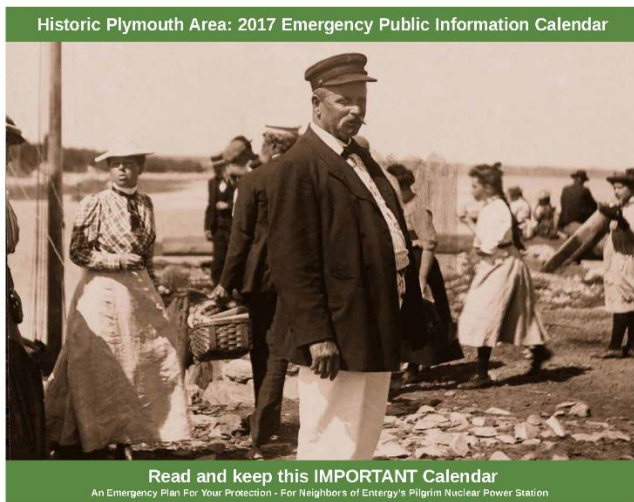
"While recent precipitation has helped to reduce the severity of the drought in parts of the state, drought conditions continue and the public is urged to take steps to reduce indoor water usage," said **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Kurt Schwartz**. "Recovery from this long-term drought will require both continued conservation measures and above-normal levels of precipitation for the foreseeable future."

The state continues to intensely monitor and assess the drought situation, and any associated environmental and agricultural impacts. Furthermore, the state asks the public to be mindful of the amount of water they are using, and to reduce indoor water use, address leaks as soon as possible, and for larger buildings and businesses to conduct water audits to ensure they identify leaks and areas for potential water conservation. These steps will greatly help reduce water use and help ensure essential needs such as drinking water and fire protection are being met, habitats have enough water to recover, and to stretch our water supplies into the spring. For additional details, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2016/drought-conditions-improve-in-areas-of-commonwealth.html> or <http://www.mass.gov/eea/drought/>.

### **TIER II Reporting**

Each year, facilities covered by the reporting requirements of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) must submit Tier II reports to their Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) and Local Fire Department, and to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Tier II Reports for 2016 must be filed by March 1, 2017. MEMA has, per Governor's Executive Memorandum, been designated as the [SERC](#) in Massachusetts. For Reporting Year 2016, the Massachusetts SERC is requiring filers to submit reports via the web-based Tier II Manager System. For additional information, please review the Tier II SERC Reporting Requirements memo which is available on MEMA's website: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/resources/serc/tier-ii-reporting-year-2016-memo-final.doc>

## **2017 Nuclear Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) Public Information Calendars Issued**



The annual Nuclear Power Plant public information calendars have been mailed to residents of the 11 Massachusetts communities located within the Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant and Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. The 2017 calendars, which are an important part of emergency planning in the EPZ's, contain information that will better prepare individuals and families for power plant emergencies and for other threats and hazards such as hurricanes, flooding, chemical spills or large fires.

Electronic versions of the calendars can be found on MEMA's website

<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergencies/nuclear-power-plants/>. These preparedness webpages, which include the important emergency planning and alerting information from the calendars, are intended to enhance the ability of EPZ residents to easily access the information. Audio versions of the emergency public information are also available on MEMA's website.

The Massachusetts communities included in the Pilgrim EPZ are Duxbury, Kingston, Plymouth and portions of Carver and Marshfield and the Seabrook EPZ includes Amesbury, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury and West Newbury. Those who have not received their calendars are encouraged to contact their local Emergency Management Director, MEMA's Regional office in Bridgewater or Tewksbury, or the Nuclear Preparedness Department at MEMA Headquarters in Framingham.

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station permanently ceased power generation operations on December 29, 2014 and is currently planning for decommissioning. Following guidance from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) that had existed around the plant has been eliminated. As such, MEMA no longer maintains emergency plans and procedures for emergency incidents at Vermont Yankee.

### **MEMA Staff Updates**

Mike Nigrelli has been hired as a full time dispatcher and James Marshall and Ronnie Murphy-Bouldry have been hired as part time dispatchers in our Communications Dispatch Unit.



## **Featured MEMA Webpage: Field Services**

In an effort to highlight MEMA's resources that are available to the public safety community, we feature a MEMA webpage each month. This month we are highlighting the [Response Coordination & Mutual Aid webpage](#).

MEMA manages and coordinates emergency response efforts for the Commonwealth and coordinates the response to requests for state assistance from local jurisdictions, state agencies and other public safety partners.

The Response Coordination & Mutual Aid webpage includes details about intrastate, interstate and international [mutual aid agreements](#), the Massachusetts [Fire Mobilization Plan](#), the [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\)](#) and MEMA's [Communications Center](#). Visit the Response Coordination & Mutual Aid webpage at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/response/> for more information.

## **MEMA Field Deployment Highlights**

During the month of December, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

- December 1: MEMA's Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST), Mobile Satellite Trailer (MSAT) and supporting equipment, including cache radios and a suitcase repeater, and MEMA's communications technicians participated in a communications exercise in Westborough with Fire District 14, the Department of Fire Services (DFS), the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), and several other local and state partners. This was a large event that included Communications Unit leaders (COMLs) and Communications Technicians (COMTs) from around the state. The exercise gave the opportunity for MEMA communications staff to showcase the capabilities of the MEMA Communications Unit and provided an opportunity for skills testing as well as internal and external cross-training and collaboration.
- December 3 and 4: MEMA supported the City of Taunton for their Lights On Festival and Parade. MEMA's Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) 1 was used as Taunton PD's Tactical Command Post and was dedicated to law enforcement operations at the event. Police Officers utilized 10 MEMA cache radios to speak directly with the CP command staff.
- December 9: MEMA supported Northampton with MEOC 2 for their Unified Command Post in support of the Northampton Holiday Stroll. MEOC 2 provided Fire/EMS and Police dispatch for the event and MEMA also supplied 25 cache radios to allow public safety officials to interact with the Unified Command Post.
- December 12: MEMA supported Foxborough Police (FPD) and Fire (FFD) with the use of MEOC 2 and the MSAT to serve as a Unified Command Post and a redundant data communications system at the New England Patriots Monday Night Football Game. This was a successful test of a proof of concept that brought all agencies working "outside of the bowl" together for a true unified command operation. In-stadium coordination continued to occur in a command room inside Gillette Stadium, while MEOC 2 served as a Unified Command Post outside of the stadium and filled a critical need to conduct operations for parking and emergencies in the lots. Agencies that utilized the MEOC included FPD, FFD, National Guard



1st Civil Support Team, and MSP. The use of the MEOC also provided situational awareness and the ability to link the various communications systems and platforms across agencies.

- December 24: MEMA supported Foxborough Police and Fire with the use of MEOC 2 to serve as a Unified Command Platform at the Christmas Eve New England Patriot's Game.
- December 31: MEMA supported Northampton First Night with MEOC 2, providing a platform for unified command and public safety dispatch that included Northampton PD, FD, EMS, Dispatch, and MSP.

### **MEMA Training Update**

During the month of December, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 143 students in 7 offerings of 5 different courses:

- *ICS-100/NIMS-700 Incident Command System in Boston*
- *ICS-300 Incident Command System in New Braintree*
- *ICS-400 Advanced ICS in Agawam, Boston, and Swansea*
- *PER-212 Operational Level Response to HazMat/WMD Incidents in Taunton*
- *Emergency Planning for Access and Functional Needs Population in Worcester*

In 2016, 2,099 students took 90 separate MEMA supported classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities, visit: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **Latest Federal Disaster Assistance Totals for the 2015 Blizzard**

The Disaster and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of January 4th, 2017, 1066 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$74.9M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$98.9M eligible project costs).

### **MEMA'S Mission Statement**

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

### **Follow MEMA For Important Emergency Information**

**Twitter** - [www.twitter.com/MassEMA](https://twitter.com/MassEMA); **Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA);

**YouTube** - [www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA](https://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA); **MEMA Website** - [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema);

**Massachusetts Alerts app** - [www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp](http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp)

